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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/667,498

09/23/2003

Yukikazu Ujikane

YMOR : 296

1914

6160

7590

08/13/2004

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

1421 PRINCE STREET

SUITE 210

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2805

EXAMINER

GRAY, DAVID M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2851

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/667,498

Applicant(s)

UJIKANE ET AL.

Examiner

David M Gray

Art Unit

2851



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 9 and 10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-6, 8 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/23/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Claim Objections***

Claims 1-6, 8 and 11 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claimed “the second turning section being located to position itself toward the rear of the support unit when the strobe casing is at the first position and being located to position itself toward the rear of the strobe casing when the strobe casing is at **the first position and the second position**” contains redundant limitations. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Hosokawa et al.

Regarding claim 1, Hosokawa et al. discloses “a camera body [17]; a support unit [21, 41] having a first turning section [49] and a second turning section [47], the support unit being turnably supported on the camera body through the first turning section [49 engages 27]; a strobe casing [11] turnably supported at one side thereof on the support unit through the second turning section [15 engages 47], the strobe casing containing a strobe light-emitting section [tube shown in figure 4] and being shiftable between a first position [figure 3] and a second position [figure 40]; a first engaging section for engaging the support unit at the second position [21 is engaged by the camera body in all

Art Unit: 2851

positions]; and a second engaging section for engaging the strobe casing at the second position [13 engages 29], the first turning section being located to position itself toward the front of the support unit when the strobe casing is at the first position [see figure 4], the second turning section being located to position itself toward the rear of the support unit when the strobe casing is at the first position [see figure 4] and being located to position itself toward the rear of the strobe casing when the strobe casing is at the first position and the second position [see figures 3 and 4].”

Regarding claim 4, Hosokawa et al. discloses “the first turning section [49] is located in front of the strobe casing when the strobe casing is at the first position [see figure 3].”

Regarding claim 5, Hosokawa et al. discloses “the support unit [21, 41] and the strobe casing [11] are provided in a top-surface part of the camera body [see figure 11], and the support unit and the strobe casing are arranged to be mounted on the top surface of the camera body when the strobe casing is at the first position [see figure 11].”

Regarding claim 6, Hosokawa et al. discloses “the support unit [21, 41] and the strobe casing [11] are provided in a top-surface part of the camera body [see figure 12], and the support unit and the strobe casing are arranged to be housed in the top-surface part of the camera body when the strobe casing is at the first position [see figure 12].”

Regarding claim 8, Hosokawa et al. discloses “a cover section [23] being integral with the support unit and covering the strobe light-emitting section when the strobe casing is at the first position [see figure 3].”

Regarding claim 11, Hosokawa et al. discloses “a restrictor [29] for restricting turning of the strobe casing toward the first position with respect to the support unit

Art Unit: 2851

within a prescribed turning range of the support unit with respect to the camera body when the strobe casing is shifted from the second position to the first position [col 4, lns 53-68].”

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 7, 9 and 10 are allowed.

Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art does not disclose or suggest "a first elastic member for driving the support unit to the second position with respect to the camera body; a second elastic member for driving the strobe casing to the second position with respect to the support unit" in combination with the remaining claim elements as set forth in claims 7, 9 and 10.

The prior art does not disclose or suggest "the strobe casing is approximately rectangular parallelepiped in shape, and the support unit covers side surfaces and a bottom surface of the strobe casing when the strobe casing is at the first position." in combination with the remaining claim elements as set forth in claim 2.

The prior art does not disclose or suggest "the support unit is formed of two plates overlaid one on the other, and a wiring section for electrically connecting the strobe light-

Art Unit: 2851

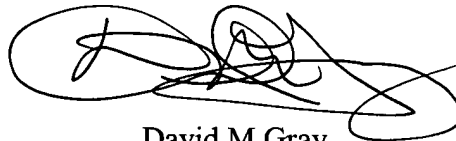
emitting section and the camera body is sandwiched between the two plates" in combination with the remaining claim elements as set forth in claim 3.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M Gray whose telephone number is 571-272-2119.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David M Gray', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

David M Gray  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2851